

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR:LBLAINGEN:GMD

APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN

H:LAPEZZULLO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PO

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON PORTUGAL
FOR HARTMAN FROM LOWENSTEIN

1. HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF FASCELL OF FLORIDA HAS SCHEDULED OPEN HEARINGS ON PORTUGAL AT 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 14. AFTER DISCUSSION BETWEEN US AND COMMITTEE STAFF, LATTER HAVE AGREED THAT FOCUS OF HEARINGS WILL BE PRIMARILY ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE IN PORTUGAL, ITS LIKELY DIRECTION, AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR GENERAL INTERESTS INCLUDING THAT OF NATO. WE HAVE ADVISED STAFF THAT SINCE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL PRESENTLY DORMANT AND GIVEN CURRENT FOCUS ON POLITICAL SCENE, WE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE EITHER USEFUL OR APPROPRIATE TO FOCUS DISCUSSIONS ON THIS AREA AND STAFF APPEARS TO AGREE. NONETHELESS, WE CAN PROBABLY ANTICIPATE SOME QUESTIONS IN THIS AREA TO WHICH WE PROPOSE RESPONDING IN VERY GENERAL TERMS BUT EMPHASIZE THAT IF COMMITTEE WISHES TO CONSIDER THIS MORE DEEPLY WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO BY LATER SUBMITTING STATEMENT ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

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2. SUBJECT TO YOUR AGREEMENT, WE WILL PROCEED WITH HEARINGS

WITH LAINGEN AS PRINCIPAL WITNESS FOR STATE SUPPORTED
BY PEZZULLO, RPM AND IB.

3. SAME COMMITTEE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BEING
BRIEFED ON CURRENT STATUS SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND
H HAS OFFERED TO APPEAR IN CLOSED SESSION ON MARCH 25
WITH MCCLOSKEY/PEZZULLO AS PRINCIPAL WITNESSES. INGERSOLL

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